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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/780,499	02/12/2001	Seiji Kishimoto	P20588	8118

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EXAMINER

NATNAEL, PAULOS M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 06/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/780,499

Applicant(s)

KISHIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3,4,5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims **1-5,7 and 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cooper et al., U.S. Pat. No. **5,995,140**.

Considering claim 1, Cooper et al. discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) plurality of video outputting means for outputting a sync signal and video signal corresponding to said sync signal, is met by Video inputs #1-#4 from Video cameras 301-304, FIG.3;

b) selecting means for selecting the changeover target video outputting means indicated by a changeover instruction from said plurality of video outputting means, is met by Video Switcher 220, FIG.3;

c) timing changing means for synchronizing a sync signal output by said target video outputting means with a sync signal output by said source video outputting means to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

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Considering claim 2, the video output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reset signal generating means for generating a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the source video outputting means to be changed based on a changeover instruction, wherein the timing changing means synchronizes a sync signal output by the target video outputting means with said reset signal, is met by the disclosure that "If the timing control of a camera capable of external synchronization exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera. For example, the cameras 301, 302, 303, and 304 will compare the horizontal drive pulse 710 of the horizontal drive signal 700 with the horizontal synchronization pulse 540 of the video signal 500 for the particular camera to determine if the horizontal counter of the timing control in the particular camera must be reset." (col. 3, lines 38-47, see also line 48 through col. 4, line 5)

Considering claim 3, the video output apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the timing changing means outputs the reset signal received from the reset signal generating means to the target video outputting means at a reset signal generating timing at which said reset signal generating means generates a reset signal or at a change timing that arrives every predetermined number of clocks from said 5 reset signal generating timing.

Regarding claim 3, see rejection of claim 2;

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Considering claim 4, the video output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the target video outputting means comprises counting means for outputting a sync signal when a counted number of reference clocks reaches a predetermined number of clocks, is met by the disclosure "If the timing control of a camera...exceeds an allowable variation from the drive signal, the camera will reset the counter of the timing control in the camera." (col. 3, lines 40-42)

Considering claim 5, the video output apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the counting means resets an already counted number of reference clocks upon reception of a reset signal from the timing changing means.

Regarding claim 5, see rejection of claim 4;

Considering claim 7, Cooper discloses all claimed subject matter, note;

a) a plurality of video outputting means for outputting a sync signal and video signal corresponding to said sync signal, is met by Video inputs #1-#4 from Video cameras 301-304, FIG.3;

b) selecting means for selecting the changeover target video outputting means indicated by a changeover instruction from said plurality of video outputting means, is met by Video Switcher 220, FIG.3;

c) timing changing means for synchronizing a sync signal output by said target video outputting means with a sync signal output by said source video outputting means to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

Considering claim 8, the communication terminal apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a) image pickup means for picking up an image pickup target as an image pickup signal is met by the Cameras 301-304, fig.2;

b) image pickup video outputting means for outputting a sync signal and said image pickup signal, is also met by Cameras 301-304, fig.2;

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims **6, 9-10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,995,140.

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Considering claim 6, the video output apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising controlling means that turns off the power to the source video outputting means to be changed based on a changeover instruction.

Regarding claim 6, see rejection of claim 9(d) below.

Considering claim 9,

a) a step of turning on the power to a changeover target signal source, is inherent because the system would not operate without power.

b) a timing changing step of synchronizing a sync signal output from said target signal source with a sync signal output from the signal source to be changed, is met by timing Control 210, fig.2;

c) a selecting step of selecting the changeover target signal source indicated by a changeover instruction, is met by camera control codes from timing control 210 to Video Switcher 220, fig. 3;

Except for;

d) a step of turning off the power to the signal source to be changed.

Regarding a) and d), Cooper et al. does not specifically disclose turning off the power the signal source to be changed. However, it is well known in the art that a system control unit such as a microprocessor or a microcomputer is used to regulate power by turning on and off the power for individual devices in the system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Cooper et al. by providing a system control unit such as a

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microprocessor to control the power to individual elements of the system in order to ensure a well-regulated power distribution in the system which helps with the longevity and reliability of the system as a whole.

Considering claim **10**, a step for generating a reset signal synchronized with a sync signal of the signal source means to be changed, wherein the timing changing means synchronizes a sync signal of the changeover target signal source with said reset signal.

Regarding claim 10, see rejection of claim 2;

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cooper et al., U.S. Pat. No. **5,870,139** discloses method and system of video multiplexing, wherein the details of video controller and timing control are disclosed.

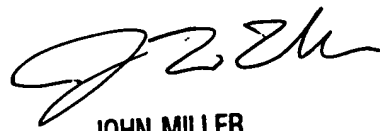
Eto et al., U.S. Pat. No. **5,557,342** discloses a video display apparatus displaying a plurality of video signals having a different scanning frequencies an a multi-screen display system using the video display apparatus, wherein sync signals and video signals are input into the display system separately.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (703) 305-0019. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am -3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

Paulos Natnael
May 28, 2003


JOHN MILLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600